

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 114

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Thomas Wesley Pickel, Jr., of Kingston.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Thomas Wesley Pickel, Jr., an engineer who served his community by setting a strong example for equality and championing social justice and human rights for all; and

WHEREAS, born on October 13, 1927, in Kingston, Dr. Pickel was the son of T. Wesley Pickel and Mae Jackson Pickel; he developed a mindset of industry early, when he began carrying the *Chattanooga Times* in August 1938. He quit his paper route in the summer of 1941 to work with his father in school construction; and

WHEREAS, a charter member of Boy Scout Troop 101, Dr. Tom Pickel embraced sports and musicianship during his high school years; he led a jazz band and served as captain of the football and basketball teams during his senior year after years of dedication, and upon graduating in 1945, he received a football scholarship to Milligan College; and

WHEREAS, after completing his first year of college, Dr. Pickel joined the United States Army and was transferred into the Army Air Corps; he served most of his tenure in the military in the Washington, D.C., area, working to complete the first government maps for aerial photographs of Antarctica; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Pickel attended Vanderbilt University after his discharge from military service in January 1948; while at Vanderbilt, he served as a member of the Tau Beta Pi fraternity and as class president during his senior year; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, Dr. Pickel married his college sweetheart, Jane Dunlap, on June 9, 1951, and shortly thereafter

relocated to Baytown, Texas; while in Baytown, he worked as an engineer with the Humble Oil and Refining Company, now known as Exxon Mobil; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Pickel soon decided to return to his hometown of Kingston, Tennessee, and, continuing his education, he completed a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Tennessee, then a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, calling upon his engineering expertise, Dr. Pickel worked assiduously on desalination with the American Seahorse Institute at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, and served on a national committee that worked to develop earthquake standards for designing nuclear facilities; in 1974, he was recognized by Oak Ridge National Laboratory for his contributions to the coal conversion fields; and

WHEREAS, he served his community in various capacities, including as the Republican County Chairman, a two-term member of the Roane County School Board, a member of the Kingston Rotary Club, chairman of the local United Way, and a founding member of the Kingston Library Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tom Pickel evinced his religious faith as an active member of Bethel Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder, taught Sunday school, and worked in youth services; he served twice as the representative for the Presbytery of East Tennessee at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church semi-annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pickel was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Jane Dunlap Pickel, for sixty-nine years; their blessed union produced three children, Laura (Ted) Dailey, Thomas Wesley (Lisa) Pickel III, and Margaret (Greg) Murr; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and children, Dr. Tom Pickel is survived by his brother, Eugene Pickel; grandchildren, Stephanie (Jay) Wright, Janice White, Dr. Rebecca (Joe) Pierce, Justin (Ashley) Murr, Rachel (Adam) Gallaher, Ellen Dailey, and Jonathan (Abbie) Dailey; and great-grandchildren, Maggie Wright, Grayson Pierce, Gabriel Pierce, Wesley Pierce, Mae Gallaher, Emerson Fox, and Iris Murr; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws, Clyde P. (Christine) Dunlap, Clyde P. Dunlap, Jr., Bettye Cloyd, and Ruth Melton; sister, Margie Gulley; and grandson, Jacob Murr; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pickel leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Thomas Wesley Pickel, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Pickel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.